

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US GV

SUBJECT: SEKOU TOURE'S COMMENTS ON US-GUINEAN RELATIONS

1. IN MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE JAN 21, I
THANKED HIM FOR HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANCE TO ME FOR
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF WORKING TOWARD IMPROVEMENT IN US-GUINEAN
RELATIONS. I EXPRESSED ENCOURAGEMENT OVER PROGRESS I HAD NOTED
IN PAST 2-1/2 YEARS IN THIS REGARD. I WAS ESPECIALLY
PLEASED THAT US- GUINEAN
COOPERATION WAS ABOUT TO TAKE CONCRETE FORM. AS THE
PRESIDENT KNEW, USG WISHED TO HELP GUINEA IN ITS AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT. THIS PROJECT JUST GETTING UNDERWAY, AND
I ASSURED HIM, THAT ON BASIS CONVERSATIONS DURING MY RECENT
TRIP TO WASHINGTON, I KNOW THAT USG HAD VERY POSITIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD THIS COOPERATION. COUNTING ON SIMILAR ATTITUDE ON HIS
PART, I COULD FEEL CONFIDENT THAT ADDITIONAL PROGRESS WILL BE
MADE AFTER MY DEPARTURE.

2. TOURE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT DEVELOPING
COOPERATION. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF RESISTANCE TO HELPING
GUINEA, AND WAS PLEASED THAT THIS WAS NOW OVERCOME. HE ASSURED
ME CATEGORICALLY THAT HE HIMSELF HAD FIRM INTENTION LEADING
GUINEA TOWARD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US. SAID THERE
UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE MINOR DISAGREEMENTS AND OBSTACLES, BUT
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HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THEY WOULD BE

OVERCOME AND NOT DETRACT FROM MAJOR GOAL.

3. TOURE ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED GREAT ADMIRATION FOR US. SAID LIKE GUINEA, US HAD FOUGHT AGAINST FOREIGN DOMINATION AND HAD CONQUERED ITS INDEPENDENCE. HISTORY OF TWO COUNTRIES THEREFORE SIMILAR IN THIS RESPECT. US PRESENT WORLD POSITION IS THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF AMERICAN PEOPLE ALONE, ACHIEVED THROUGH HARD WORK, AND THIS IS AMERICA'S STRENGTH. TOURE ASKED RHETORICALLY: WHO HAS HELPED THE US? WHOM HAS US EVER ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE?

4. TOURE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT DESPITE SIMILAR BEGINNINGS, THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY ENORMOUS DIFFERENCES, INCLUDING DIFFERENCES IN POLICY. GUINEA (LIKE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES) COULD NEVER USE US AS MODEL FOR POLITICAL/ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION; IN FACT THERE IS NO MODEL ANYWHERE-- WESTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE OR ASIA. TOURE SAID HE KNEW THAT USG DID NOT AGREE WITH GUINEA ON MANY ISSUES. BUT, HE CONTINUED, NOT A SINGLE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD IS COMPLETELY HAPPY WITH GUINEAN POLICIES. THESE DIFFERENCES CONSTITUTE, HE SAID, A NATION'S PERSONALITY. TODMAN

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